GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3178
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
MINING OF RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS
Nandy Shri Amitava

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report regarding incidence of environment contamination in the Eastern Region of the country .caused by the mining of radio-active materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Nuclear Plants in the country has suffered from incidents of serious nature causing radiation leaks and physical damages;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial and preventive action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 24th December 2006 leak developed in the pipeline carrying tailings to pond no.3 at Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., (UCIL), Jaduguda, in East Singhbhum District,Jarkhand State. The leaked tailings did flow through the concrete channel to the nearby nallah. The flow through the pipe was stopped within a few hours on the same day and the pipeline was replaced. The inflow of the nallah was diverted by constructing a temporary bund in the upstream side. The downstream of the nallah beyond the point was also closed by an earthen bund. The nallah between the bunds was cleaned and the material was removed to the tailings pond. Then the nallah was flushed with fresh water and normal flow was restored. After rectification measures the quality of water in the nallah was monitored and it has been found safe. An enquiry was conducted by UCIL involving experts of health physics unit, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and it was concluded that:

(1) due to leakage of pipeline, there was no appreciable radiological changes in the surrounding atmosphere; and

(2) radiological and chemical impact remained confined within the temporary bunds on the nallah and the villagers were not affected The nallah water is not the source of consumption for local villagers as tap water has been provided by UCIL.After cleaning the tailings slurry from the nallah, the normal environmental condition has been restored.

(c) No, Sir.

(d)&(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.